

Acts 13 Overview

Evangelist Report on My Work of “setting” Main Street in “order”

Acts 13 records the beginning of what is usually called Paul's first missionary journey. First, there was the formal commission which sent Barnabas and Saul on their way (Acts 13:1-3); then there is the account of their efforts on the island of Cyprus (Acts 13:4-12); next is the record of John Mark's defection and the movement of Paul into Asia Minor (Acts 13:13-16); then follows the record of Paul's address in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:17-43); and the record of still another sermon in the same city on the sabbath day one week later (Acts 13:44-52).

Acts 14

Broke down Acts 14 by verse last week/read minimum comment/ V17

Acts 14:1-28 And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. 3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. 5 And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use [*them*] despitefully, and to stone them, 6 They were ware of [*it*], and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: 7 And there they preached the gospel. 8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: 9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had

faith to be healed, 10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. 11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. 12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. 14 [*Which*] when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard [*of*], they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, 15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: 16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Acts 14:18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them. 19 And there came thither [*certain*] Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew [*him*] out of the city, supposing he had been dead. 20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and [*to*] Iconium, and Antioch, 24 And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. 25 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: 26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. 27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God

had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. 28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.

Evangelist Report on My Work of “setting” Main Street in “order”

We have been studying the Book of Acts in a series called World conquest we left off with Acts 13 & 14.

Acts 13 records the beginning of what is usually called Paul's first missionary journey. First, there was the formal commission which sent Barnabas and Saul on their way (Acts 13:1-3); then there is the account of their efforts on the island of Cyprus (Acts 13:4-12); next is the record of John Mark's defection and the movement of Paul into Asia Minor (Acts 13:13-16); then follows the record of Paul's address in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:17-43); and the record of still another sermon in the same city on the sabbath day one week later (Acts 13:44-52).

Acts 14 This chapter details the experiences of Paul and Barnabas in Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, and also their revisiting all of the Galatian cities of this first tour, strengthening the churches, appointing elders, and their preaching at Perga which had been skipped at the beginning. It concludes with an account of their return journey to Syrian Antioch and the report of their labors to the sponsoring church.

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to continue in the faith and that we must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God.

We will report to you of our suffering for there is no victory w/o cross

Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every Church and had prayed with fasting they commended them unto the Lord on whom they believed.

First we want to explain our form of Church government here at Main Street which is as close to the primitive model V:23 as we can obey.

Introduce our Deacons, ministers, Missionaries who serve as Trustees Property and my bosses.

Burnett Wood, Kenneth Scoggins & Carl Boyd Deacons

Paul Lockman Missionary / Eric Jenkins Minister & Kelly Lawson Evan

David Campbell Elder @ Saturn Road CoC

I also subject myself to all of you and all our supporters/ AUDIT US

All of these men would be elders if they were:

I Timothy 3:4 “one who ruleth well their own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity.”

They are Godly, holy, righteous, honest, Christian men, w/ no vices or Blemishes to their character

Acts 14:26-27 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. 27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

21 International Radio Broadcasts Short Waive 10 National US

10 AM & 10 PM 18 B x 2=36 B divided by 7B = 5 times we cover earth

Website 2,541,848 HitsYear/ September 237,850 Hits /112 Countries

Home Churches 10,888 Visit every Week Year up from 6,693 year ago

Visitor First Time 12,287 in Sept alone ... some will come back grow

Written Lessons 198,865 Lot of thumb drives down loading it all

Real Audio Sermons & Song Albums 1,258,628 Lot of MP3 Filled

There are 2.5 million very serious Christians visiting our web site

How many you guess listen on radio and don't have a computer? 10X

I AM Reporting to you God has opened a Door to the Gentile Nations the world through Main Street Church of Christ short wave preaching

God is doing this with nothing and a no body, a bunch of no bodies

I'm old and dying it'll be to your everlasting shame you let this slip

Following Excerpts a letter sent to Eldershops asking for oversight

Prayer Father this is Your unworthy Evangelist Reporting

I am an unworthy sinner 73 year old, single, widower 24 years served as Evangelist here at Main Street and this is a report to the world:

Twenty four years ago my wife had been in the hospital nine times in diabetic comas and she was down to 80 pounds. I had two heart attacks trying to take care of her and run an environmental engineering company with over a million a year in sales. So I came to Peak & Eastside Church of Christ hoping just to sit on the back row and go to Heaven.

Being the Prodigal Son of this congregation and the greatest of sinners, I have never thought that I was worthy to be the minister of the Peak & Eastside Church of Christ. Prior to 24 years ago, there is nothing in my life that does not bring me shame. The truth is, I have failed at everything I have ever done in life but this... I have spent 9 1/2 years of my life in prison mainly at the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas for multiple bank robberies, organized crime and weapons violations specifically the 1934 Machine gun act.

Many people have asked me "Why don't you write a book?". I could, and it would be a best-seller, like "The Godfather" or "Goodfellas", for I know all those "Wise Guys" well. The truth is, I am living proof that crime does not pay. I have suffered for every transgression.

Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth He chaseneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth .

Twenty four years ago I walked the aisle here, confessed my sins, and dedicated what was left of my life to Jesus my Lord. Brother W. O. Scoggins, who had served here as an elder for over fifty years, encouraged me to preach and teach again. He cared not that my 'name was Mud'. He just had that unique ability to look beyond what I was and he could clearly see what I could not ... all that I could become in Christ Jesus. I must confess that I don't believe that he is now ashamed because his heart was always with preaching the gospel and ministering to the poor.

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, [*and*] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

They exhorted brethren. "Through much tribulation" All have to bear the cross. I can't remember a time in 24 years w/o suffering.

I began her with an almost dead wife whom God spared and raised up

Dec. 10, 2015 Great Day 10 to 20 International Radio Broadcasts

Ginger Ambulance Paralyzed w/ ADEM Super virus

Got to Church No Sound / Rats / speaker wires / food supplies

My only concern has been: what would happen to Main Street when I'm gone ... The preacher before me borrowed \$40,000 from the widow of one of our dead elders and 2 thieves in the eldership stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from Main Street plus the Darden & V. Willie estates. They were also about to sell this place to DART for \$250,000, cut the money and run ... until our past Godly elder, brother Adair Chapman exposed them. One of the thieves got us sued for \$120,000 and wound up in prison. Copies of the checks Police Reports proof

from 1999 of these things are available downstairs Sundays after worship or Monday through Friday 9 am till noon ... just pop in and see proof for yourself ... proof not only of the thieves but of all our World Wide responses on every report ever given you ... it is all available downstairs online ...

As an Administrator I insist food money donations be spent on food Supplies on supplies / Radio Money on Radio / Grants go to Savings From that Parking lot / HVAC / Building maintenance /

Added up all those who help with food running soup kitchen \$83 day

Other congregations beginning with Brown Trail 24 years ago and White Rock 19 years ago offered to take the oversight of Main Street, sell our property and use the money supporting their programs. We can sell the property and do good Christian deeds and works with the money ourselves, we don't need anyone else to do that ... we want to be the "repairer of the breach" and preserve "the old waste places."

New Manhattan CoC will be down-town in 10 to 20 yrs. Area changing

I was set apart as an evangelist by this congregation in 1994. 97-3.

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee

His job being summarized as: "set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders".

Even though an evangelist is somewhat in charge until he can "ordain Elders" ... I DO NOT believe in the Baptist system of a "pastor ruler" but on the other hand: No elders .. better .. bad or unqualified elders ... have proof of bad elders

We do not have any members qualified for the eldership.

Approach me next week privately I discuss it with you why you not

Jump up now and say I am & I tell you in front of God & everybody

Obv: God would NOT be pleased for me to be the "Pope" of the Main Street Church of Christ/everyone needs/supervision & accountability

This Church is governed as close to the pure scriptural model of Elders over Church Government as we can follow. First this is an inter-city Mission not your ordinary congregation in "Happy Acres."

In 1994 I was set apart as an evangelist / 1999 Thieves / no Elders

Trustees are T. of Property who are Leadership Representatives of Congregation

I asked the entire Church membership to adopt a representative form of Church Government with all the longtime members, deacons and preachers as Trustees to whom I would subject myself. We added Adair Chapman our previous elder who was a lifelong preacher who had served as an elder here before resigning to expose the thief.

Also, Clayton Tuggle, a 25 year elder of Walnut Hill was appointed a Trustee. After his death we added David Campbell an elder at Saturn Road who is younger representing a new younger generation. He is also now a Trustee. These trustees can replace or fire me "anytime".

The Trustees have adopted Bylaws which have been approved by 3 different Lawyers.

Burnett Wood, Kenneth Scoggins & Carl Boyd Deacons

Paul Lockman Missionary / Eric Jenkins Minister & Kelly Lawson Evan

David Campbell Elder @ Saturn Road Coc

The Bylaws give me the authority for the day to day management of the Church with the administrative authority over all our works. I have

delegated that Authority in Feeding to Larry Thomas. I am office Administrator with authority to authorize the secretaries to make out a check for up to \$1,000 over \$500, I must report to another trustee immediately. Over \$1,000 in checks or contracts requires the approval of 3 or more Trustees and the notification of all the Trustees. I am wide open for suggestions, advice and criticism ...

In order to avoid the appearance of evil, because of my past love of money, I do not handle the money or sign on any Bank account this being the responsibility of Deacons and secretaries.

I am an evangelist and missionary and over the past 23 years, I have never taken one cent in pay and I never will. Before Ginger Died 2 Checks you paid our Utilities / Now Single I pay Utilities w 1check But a livable wage must be secured for the man who takes my place ... he does not have a duplex which frees him from need.

The Church saddled me w some real winners who proved themselves Just as Paul had his Alexander the coppersmith I have had many 2 faced, deceitful and even wicked conniving brethren.

Bro. Arch#@ wanted thief back - www.mainstreetchurchofchrist.com

Tried to sell us the name \$10,000

Bro. James #@& song leader check book found \$40 bad \$25,000 good

Bro. Bin&%\$ song leader, Bible drove him out the auditorium

Bro. Sim\$%# caught him abusing wife, pestered me before preaching

“Wine” malt liquor cans everywhere ...

A couple of years ago, a realtor offered us a million dollars for this property. We refused and after another offer, the Trustees decided to list the property for top dollar according to commercial real estate

comps in our area ... three million dollars. Periodically as the offers have crept up we have raised the sale price to five and a half million dollars with our last listing. Our Realtor alerted us to a \$4,000,000 offer from Walgreens and we called a Trustee meeting with members of the Walnut Hill Missions Committee visiting as observer/advisors.

Now, I want to introduce you to William Ralston, who graduated from Harding University as a Bible Major 2 years ago. Both his parents and grandparents are lifelong members of the Church. He was raised in the Highland Street Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee.

William's grand dad had been an elder there over 30 years. He spent the summer upon graduation from Harding working as an intern at Main Street with me and I put him through my own "graduate school" ... and he is sharp as a tack. He committed himself to "being all in with Main Street" and appealed to the Trustees to: "Trust God and don't sell this property, the only conservative Church of Christ left in Downtown Dallas, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States." All the Trustees voted to adopt William's proposal. We have notified the Realtor "pick up your sign" "the property is no longer for sale."

So we are still broke with very little funds, with a four to five million dollar building and a 53,969 sq. ft. parking lot, plus God. We are developing a plan for the future in which in a few years we will continue broadcast my 1 hour preaching Evangelistic Radio sermons as a full worship service - international Radio build home Churches

William will begin preaching in a couple of years trying to build a congregation targeting the younger people who live and work in Downtown Dallas. We learned & is selling 16 acres across Peak using HUD Money for Retail Ground floor, underground parking and 6-12 floors of apartments above 80% & 20% low income.

The plan is called "Old Main Street" and we will have thousands of

people on foot right here in our neighborhood.

Future Downtown Church - Manhattan Church of Christ downtown NY.

We are only paying William \$225 a week, which is not reasonable and he needs an apartment or place to live. We dropped Abilene and Oklahoma City radio broadcasts which had been paid by Clayton Tuggle in order to pay William \$225.00 a week. Now some one picked up Abilene - The remaining broadcasts are under contract and because you who donate to Radio help - self-supporting so I just can not drop another radio broadcast and pay William more.

Last month September 2017 we had 243,549 hits on our web site from a record 112 countries worldwide. We know we have 10,888 internet house Churches which have come weekly for a year or more ... plus an additional 12,588 repeat visitors who have come before but have not come weekly for a year. What did all those people do when they came? They downloaded 198,865 written lessons and listened to 1,258,628 audio files which are sermons & songs. Preserve this Work

Thumb Drives

We are now feeding around 2,000 meals a week to the poor and homeless. The City of Dallas closed “tent city” and we are left with the violent “hard core homeless” but the area is changing and we have changed our procedures by feeding any and all Monday through Friday out the kitchen window and having any who will “peaceably” come into William’s daily Bible class from 10 am till about noon. Thank the Lord we are teaching 10 to 25 a day which is much better feeding them the real “spiritual food” the word of God.

Sunday worship don’t ... problems ... Dallas Police Officer etc.

A Plurality of Shepherds or Elders: A congregation when set in order is to have a plurality of shepherds or elders. Whenever the scripture speaks of the office, every time it is in the plural form. cf: Acts 14:23,

20:17, Titus 1:5, 1 Peter 5:1, Philippians 1:1 & James 5:14. Therefore, at least two elders are necessary but a congregation may set apart as many shepherds as are fully qualified and the congregation desires.

Evangelist

Detailed Instructions for Evangelist are found in I & II Timothy & Titus
As representative almighty God, you must be honest and fearless with a Back bone any man who slander and gossip and refuses to follow Is not qualified for leadership ... it is one of the most powerful tools Evan

Matthew 18:15-17 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear [*thee, then*] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell [*it*] unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican

I Timothy 5: 19-22 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21 I charge [*thee*] before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

Titus we do not know much of his work. But from Gal. 2:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:12-13; 7:2-16, and Titus 1:5 and 3:12 we learn: (1) that he was a Gentile whom Paul carried to Jerusalem, (2) that by the liberty of the gospel the Jerusalem council did not require him to be circumcised. (3) that he a capable and an energetic missionary, (4) that Paul had left him in Crete to finish the work which he had begun there. The

book is written to counsel Titus concerning the work Paul had left him to do (1:5). It contains: (1) the qualifications of the Elders to be selected; (2) the method of dealing with false teachings; (3) instructions to the different classes of the church; (4) exhortations to Titus himself.

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee

Timothy was a native of Lycaonia converted right here in Acts 14. His father was a Greek, but his mother and grandmother were Jews, 2 Tim. 1:5. He was taught the scriptures from his very youth, 2 Tim. 3:15, and was probably converted during Paul's first visit to Lystra, Acts 14:8-20. He was ordained as an evangelist 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6, and, after Paul's second visit to Lystra. He spent most of his time with Paul, Acts 16:1. He did much valuable service for Paul, and was greatly esteemed by him. Acts 17:14; 18:5; 20:4; Rom. 16:21; 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10. His name is associated with Paul in writing a number of letters, 2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1. He was pastor at Ephesus and while there received these letters, 1 Tim. 1:3-4. Paul desired to have him with him when death came, 2 Tim. 4:9; 13, 21.

II Timothy 2:1-8 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [*this*] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 5 And if a man also strive for masteries, [*yef*] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. 6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. 7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. 8 Remember

that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

II Timothy 3: 10-17 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of [*them*] all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [*them*]; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture [*is*] given by inspiration of God, and [*is*] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works

II Timothy 4: 1-5 I charge [*thee*] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away [*their*] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry

Shepherds, Pastors, Elders, Bishops, Presbyters & Overseers

Why are three Greek words and classes of terms and six English words used to refer to one office? The first class: shepherds and pastors Greek: *poime'n* (POY-men) beautifully describes their work as

shepherds or pastors of God's flock (His people). The second class: presbyters or overseers Greek: *presbyteros* (pres-bi-TER-os): speaks of their person as regarding their age and Christian experience. The third class: Bishops or Elders Greek: eh-pis-KO-pus refers to their being teachers visiting the members and superintendents of the congregation.

These passages state the qualifications for elders or shepherds:

I Timothy 3:1-7 This [is] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-9 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee; 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers

I Peter 5:1-4 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker

of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight [*thereof*], not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over [*God's*] heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

All three passages are being collected into one list of qualifications. They are also cataloged as “Negative” (those things that he must not be) and as “Positive” (those things he must be).

Negative: (1) “not given to wine” (2) “not a striker” (3) “not covetous” (4) “not a novice” (5) “not self willed” (6) “not soon angry”.

Positive: (1) “The husband of one wife” (2) “vigilant” (3) “sober” (4) “of good behavior” (5) “given to hospitality” (6) “patient” (7) “a lover of good men” (8) “just” (9) “holy” (10) “blameless (11) “temperate” (12) “apt to teach” (13) “of a good report of them without” and (14) “one that ruleth well his own house” and (15) “having his children in subjection with all gravity”.

Remember Paul said” “a bishop MUST be” what he describes in these qualifications – 1 Timothy 3:2

Bishops or Elders: Comes from the Greek word epis-kop-os. A study of this word shows that the translators had to choose another English word every time *episkopos* was used in which an elder or shepherd was not meaning. What word did they choose to use? Visited - Luke 1:68, visited – Luke 7:16, visited – Matthew 25:35-36, over – Acts 6:3, visit - Acts 7:23, visit - Acts 15:14, visit - Acts 15:36, visitest – Hebrews 2:6 and visit – James 1:27. This would seem to indicate visiting the flock of God is one of the chief duties of Bishops and Overseers. The Roman Church system cheats the sheep out of

personal visitation because no Roman bishop can possibly visit the people of his Dioceses.

How do we know that 'Bishops & Elders' and 'overseer' designates the same person and work that the word "elder" does? Read Titus 1:5 and 7. In verse 5 Paul speaks of 'elders' and in verse 7 'bishops' when referring to the same class of persons. Also compare Acts 20:17 and 28. The "elders" in verse 17 that Paul called to him, he also calls "overseer" in verse 28. Therefore, they also are used interchangeably.

I Timothy 5:22 "Lay hands suddenly on no man ..." means, "Do not get in a hurry to name any man as an elder

"... Neither be partakers of other men's sins ... This warns that the person responsible for appointing elders who prove unfaithful is, in a sense, partaker of their sins, unless due deliberation, investigation and testing preceded such unfortunate appointment.

"Keep thyself pure ... This has primary reference to the matter of irresponsible appointment of church elders, just mentioned." cf: Burton Coffman Commentary

Journey back to Antioch in Syria and home Church is told in verses 24-38.

Acts 14:24 And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.

Acts 14:25 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia:

Attalia, sea-port town in Pamphylia.

Acts 14:26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

But on to Syria and the home church at Antioch, a return “... from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work ...”. cf: Acts 13:2

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

The most striking fact is that they told story from view point of divine activity. Paul and Barnabas had suffered stoning reviling and humiliation they had literally shed blood but they saw life and their work in it as what God had done with them.

From NT Apostolic point of view human life is not just human activity... It is the arena of divine activity also.

This is the reality, the true view of our activity in the Kingdom as we work together under God.

Acts 14:28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.

Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, Coffman, B.W. Johnson, Clarke & J.W. McGarvey commentaries, World Conquest, along with Google images & Wikipedia.